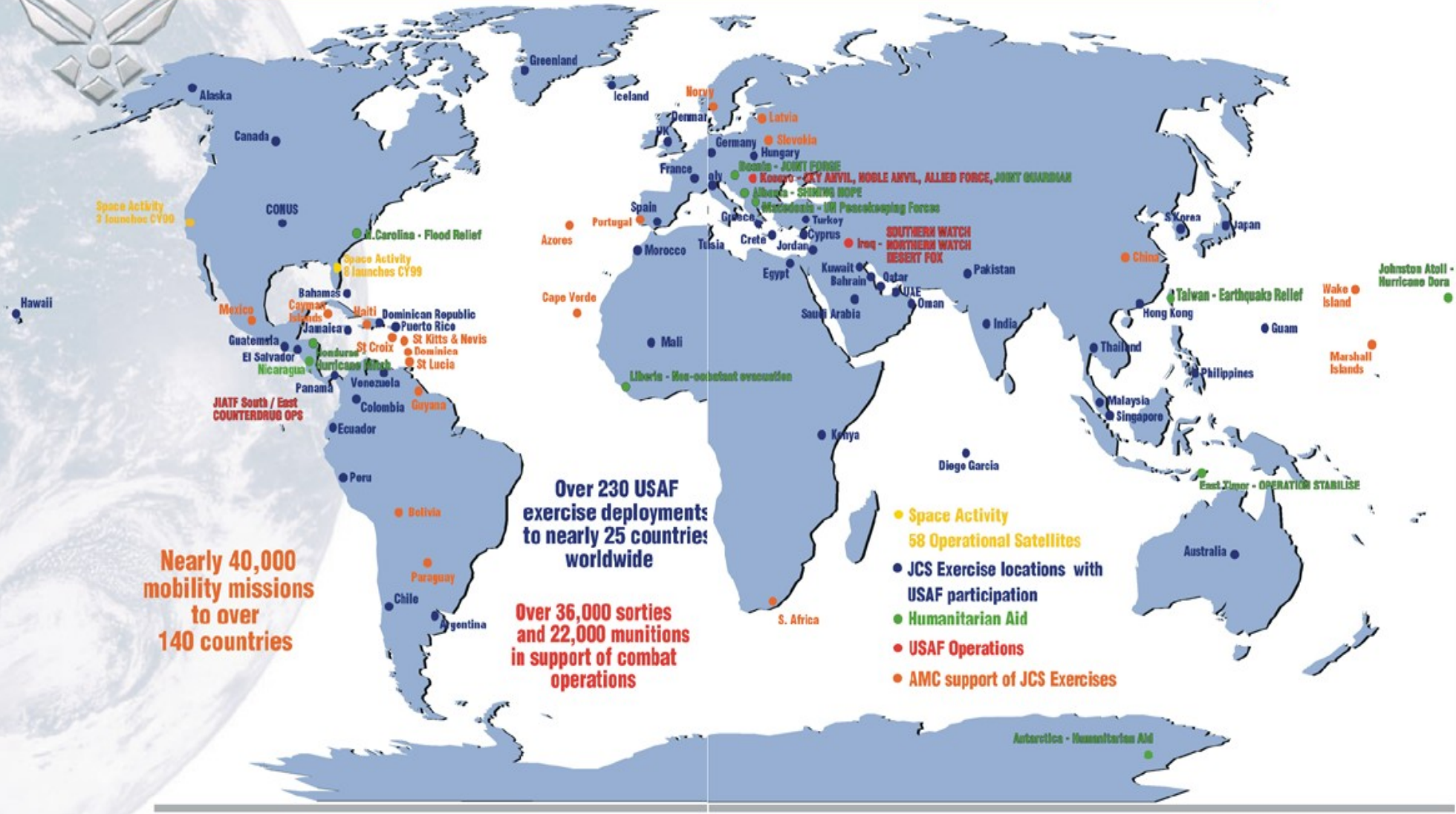
Medical Intelligence

Dedicated to those who go, because:

“THERE IS NO WARRANTY ON READINESS”

USAF Supports Operations Across the Spectrum of Conflict in FY99



The Human Weapon System

OVERVIEW

- History of DNBI
- Definition of Medical Intel
- Who is the Medical Intel Officer
- Duties of the MIO

“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. ”

-- Santayana

- Hospital DNBI Admission Rates
  - WWI...88% DNBI
  - WWII...86% DNBI
  - Korea...92% DNBI
  - Vietnam...81% DNBI
  - Desert Storm...97% DNBI

Medical Intelligence Definition

"That category of intelligence concerned with infectious diseases and environmental health factors that could degrade the effectiveness of forces deploying to foreign lands"

-- AFMIC.

WHO IS THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER (MIO)?

- AFI 41-106 Medical Readiness Planning and Training
- Appointed by Medical Commander
- Public Health Officer should be appointed, or...
- Experienced Public Health NCO

OK, you get the call… Duties of the MIO

- The wing is sending troops where?
- You want a briefing in one hour?
- Now what do you do?

DUTIES OF THE MIO

- Be PROACTIVE!!
- Medical Planning (MRSF & Medical Estimates)
- Preventive Medicine Estimate of the Situation
- Threat Assessment
- Medical Intelligence Briefing
- During Deployment Taskings
- Post Deployment Taskings

MEDICAL PLANNING

- Member of the Medical Readiness Staff Function (MRSF)
- Provides (PM) input into Medical Estimate during planning process

Pre-Deployment MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

- Research
- Threat Assessment
- Development of the briefing
- (Brief) Educate the troops!

RESEARCH

- Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC)
  - MEDIC (your cornerstone to Med Intel)
  - Weekly Wire (classified)
  - Medical Capabilities Studies (classified)
  - Disease Occurrence Worldwide

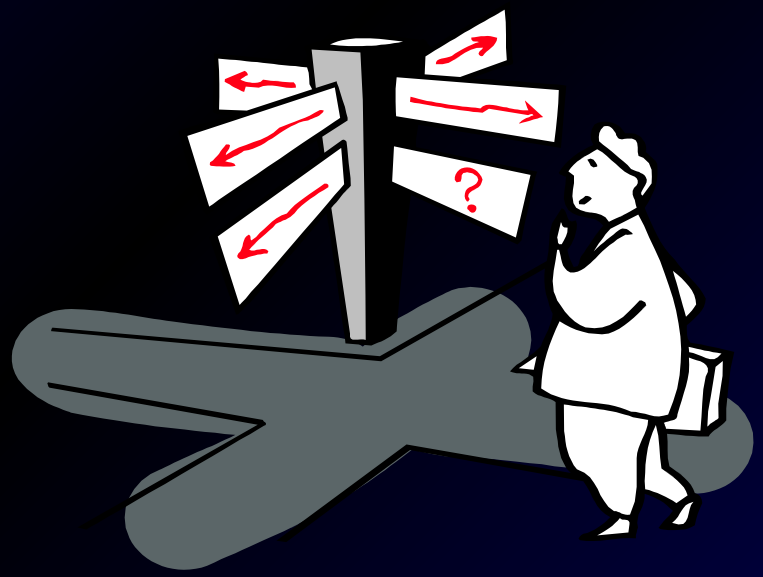
MORE RESEARCH

- DPMIAC
- Base Intelligence Office
- After Action Reports
- Messages, CNN, Newspapers, Magazines etc…
- MAJCOMS:
  - http://www.hqpacaf.af.mil/sg/sgpm/sgpm3.htm
  - http://www.usafe.ramstein.af.mil
- Any information that helps you estimate the threat!

MORE RESEARCH

- References:
  - wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/eh/ (Medical Readiness)
  - CIA (world fact book)
  - CDC (international travelers health info)
  - State Dept.
  - Maps
  - Anti-venom
  - We’re still not finished…….

THE MEDICAL THREATS MAY BE NUMEROUS… HOW DO I ASSESS THE "TRUE RISKS?"



Threat Assessment

- Disease Incidence/Prevalence
- Morbidity/Mortality
- Endemic/Epidemic
- Risk Factors
- Conditions/Scenarios
- Countermeasures

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

- Format

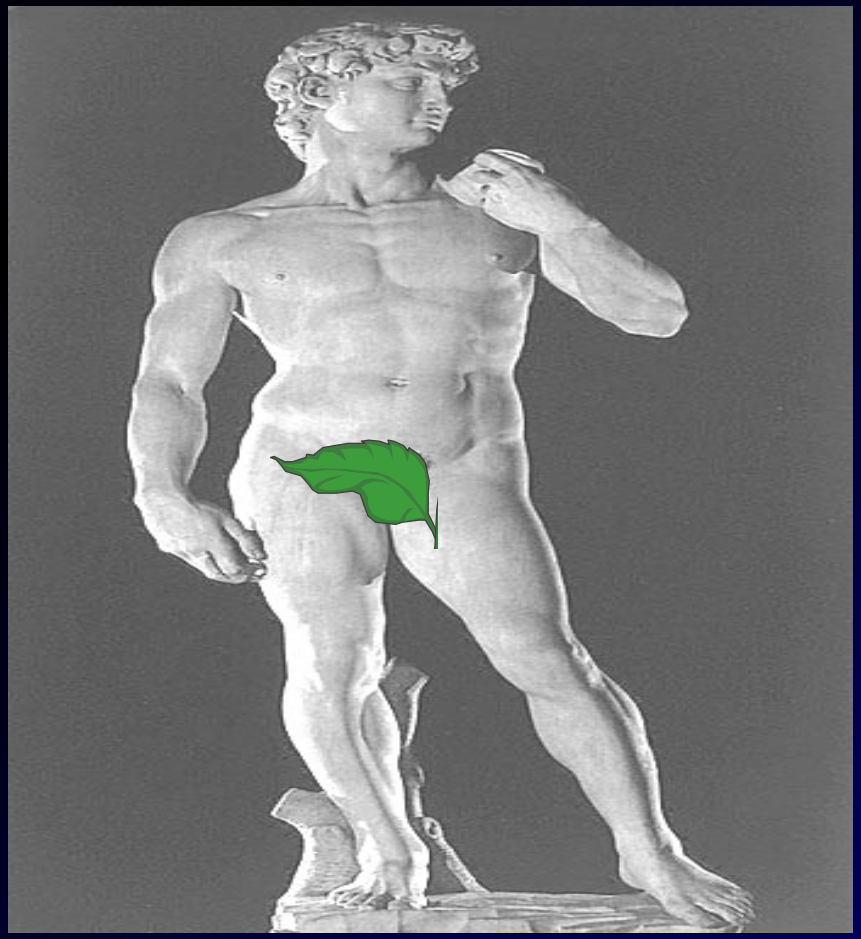
  - Country Profile → Location, Size, Geography, Customs
  - Environmental Factors → Climate, Altitude, Topography, Pollution
  - Endemic Diseases → Local Diseases to include: AGE, Respiratory, Skin, and STDs

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

- Hazardous Insects & Vectorborne Diseases → - Hazardous/Venomous Arthropods
- Hazardous Plants, Animals, & Zoonotic Diseases → - Local Flora/Poisonous/Contact Hazard
- Occupational Health → - Noise, Chemicals, Bloodborne Pathogens, Chemical Treatment Kits

DON’T FORGET THE COUNTERMEASURES!!!!

Without information on countermeasures our troops are virtually unprotected from the threats



EDUCATE THE TROOPS…. or it's all for naught.

- The Pre-Deployment Briefings
  - Brief the Medical Commander
  - Brief the Line Commander
  - Brief the Medical Team
  - Brief the DEPLOYING TROOPS!

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING OVERALL GOALS

- Minimize Mission Impact
  - Minimize Illness/Injury
  - Minimize DNBI
  - Minimize Non-Effectiveness Rate

OK, the troops deployed... Are you done? Not even close!!!

DURING DEPLOYMENT MIO TASKINGS

- Reassess/oversee PM input to
  - Site selection, camp layout
  - Field sanitation/hygiene
- Analyze actual disease threat
  - Truly endemic in locals
  - Food/waterborne
  - Vector
  - Those caused by our own practices
- Determine baseline

DURING DEPLOYMENT MIO TASKINGS

- Record, analyze, report disease/injuries incidence
- Joint weekly reporting (GEMS)
- Observe local flora/fauna
- Brief new arrivals of local threats
- Actively survey your entire population/deployment site for any factors that may reduce human performance
- Keep commanders informed of current/new threats (recommend corrective actions)

POST DEPLOYMENT MIO TASKINGS

- Redeployment Educational Briefings
- Post Deployment Health Histories
- Illness/Injury documentation and Follow-up
- Chemoprophylaxis Follow-up
- TB/Blood Samples Follow-up
- Wallet size reminders for returning troops
- Retrograde Cargo
- After Action Reports
  - Due 30 days after completing deployment to MAJCOM/SG OPR’s (they provide format)

POST DEPLOYMENT MIO TASKINGS

- Contigencies include the following
  - National Emergency
  - Natural disaster
  - Armed Conflict
  - National Disaster Medical System activation
  - Any other response directed by HQ USAF, JCS, or National Command Authorities

POST DEPLOYMENT MIO TASKINGS

- MAJCOM OPR's should mail information copies of the report as follows:
  - AFMIC, Bldg 1607 Porter St, Ft Detrick, MD 21702
  - HQ USAF/SGXR
  - AFMLO/FOCW/FOM
  - 384 MTS/MRTA, 82d MEDTG
  - USAFSAM/PH
    - ADDRESSES IN AFI 41-106

Wow, that was a lot of work! But was it worth it?

- Absolutely!!!
- Troops Healthy, Families Happy
- Mission Accomplished
- Deployments a Success
- Disease not spread to home
- AFMIC can update info
- You’re a force multiplier!!! 90% of DNBI can be prevented!

SUMMARY

- History of DNBI
- Definition of Medical Intel
- Who is the Medical Intel Officer
- Duties of the MIO

About 400 BC Hipocrates of Cos, a Greek physician and professor of medicine taught:

"One must foresee the effects of the seasons: the wind, heat, cold, the quality of water, and the terrain of an area... if these were studied, one could know the diseases that exist, how to treat those diseases, and most importantly, how to prevent them."

How much have we really learned in 2400 years?